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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Ben Haden, Changed Lives Ministries, Chattanooga, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Join me in prayer.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come in simplicity and honesty. You are God; we are not. Thank You, Lord, for giving to these unique men and women the political gift to be elected and the opportunity to serve You, country, and their constituency. Bless us, Lord, on the inside and make Your will plain, that these Your leaders may lead and legislate to the honor of God and to the glory of this free country.

Bless us, Lord, in this war against terrorism with victory and balance. Humble us and teach us Your greatness, Your love, and Your forgiveness. And bless these our leaders with judgment, vision, and confidence in our future. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, my personal Lord, my personal saviour, and my personal friend. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ETHERIDGE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR BEN HADEN OF CHANGED LIVES MINISTRIES

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome one of Chattanooga, Tennessee's finest citizens, Pastor Ben Haden, to the House of Representatives as our guest chaplain for today. It is very special to introduce Ben, because he is a humble man of God with a ministry that has touched thousands of lives.

Ben's first career was in the newspaper business; but in the middle of his life, Jesus Christ touched his heart and 4 decades of ministry began. He came to First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga in 1967 and quickly gained a reputation for his passion, his heart, and his sermons. His popularity and ability to draw worshipers soon resulted in closed-circuit televisions being set up in the chapel and fellowship hall for overflow crowds.

Not long after coming to First Presbyterian, Ben launched his own radio ministry, "Changed Lives," on a radio station in Chattanooga. This ministry eventually grew to include a television program watched regularly by thousands, including the Reverend Billy Graham.

In March of 1999, Ben stepped down as senior pastor from the First Presbyterian Church to devote his full energies to his radio ministry "Changed Lives."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Father Coughlin for inviting Ben Haden to offer our invocation on this day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ACT NOW TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, our State Department should urge, as all of us should, the U.N. Security Council to immediately address the ongoing conflict in Burma. Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains disappeared, and the military junta will not disclose her whereabouts.

The so-called Burmese State Peace and Development Council, the SPDC, which is their name for the military junta, uses slave labor, child soldiers, and mass rape campaigns against the people, the exact opposite of bringing peace and development to Burma. Yet the SPDC is now lobbying surrounding governments to gain support for its rule.

The Prime Minister of Thailand has created a road map for peace in Burma, but the plan leaves the brutal dictatorship in power.

What will it take for the international community to act? How many political prisoners must be tortured and ethnic villagers brutally raped and then murdered? How long must somebody be held incommunicado before strong, decisive action against the SPDC is taken?

Mr. Speaker, the international community must act now to help the people of Burma.

UNFUNDED FEDERAL MANDATE: STOP THE FEDS FROM PASSING THE BUCK FOR EDUCATION REFORM

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand that the Congress and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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